



Window: The Resurrection

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
The Order of Worship for
The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 5th, 2024 † 10:30 AM

Welcome to worship in All Saints Hall, our parish hall. We are remodeling our Nave to Make Room for All and improve accessibility. We expect the work to be complete by Thanksgiving.

Restrooms and a water fountain are available in a hallway to your right as you face the fireplace. Additional restrooms are behind the parish hall, accessible via two right turns from the door near the office.

Children are welcome in worship. Care for young children is available in the nursery if needed. Older children are invited to children's chapel before the reading of the gospel. Children's chapel will meet in the outreach center. Should you need to step out at any time, a livestream of the service will be shown in the library, located directly behind the fireplace.

Welcome

Please stand as you are comfortable at the ringing of the bell

Hymn 412 Earth and all Stars

Earth and all Stars



1 Earth and all stars, loud rush - ing plan - ets, sing to the
 2 Hail, wind, and rain, loud blow - ing snow - storms, sing to the
 3 Trum - pet and pipes, loud clash - ing cym - bals, sing to the
 4 En - gines and steel, loud pound - ing ham - mers, sing to the
 5 Class - rooms and labs, loud boil - ing test - tubes, sing to the
 6 Know - ledge and truth, loud sound - ing wis - dom, sing to the



1 Lord _____ a new song! O vic - to - ry,
 2 Lord _____ a new song! Flow - ers and trees,
 3 Lord _____ a new song! Harp, lute, and lyre,
 4 Lord _____ a new song! Lime - stone and beams,
 5 Lord _____ a new song! Ath - lete and band,
 6 Lord _____ a new song! Daugh - ter and son,



1 loud shout - ing ar - my, sing to the Lord _____ a new song!
 2 loud rus - tling dry leaves, sing to the Lord _____ a new song!
 3 loud hum - ming cel - los, sing to the Lord _____ a new song!
 4 loud build - ing work - ers, sing to the Lord _____ a new song!
 5 loud cheer - ing peo - ple, sing to the Lord _____ a new song!
 6 loud pray - ing mem - bers, sing to the Lord _____ a new song!



He hath done mar - vel - ous things.



I, too, will praise him with a new song!

Words: Herbert F. Brokering (b. 1926). Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Music: *Earth and All Stars*, David N. Johnson (1922-1987). Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Collect for Purity *unison*

BCP 355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria S-278

setting by William Matthias

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -
 might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
 praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,
 on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
 Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of
 God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: William Matthias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

The Collect of the Day

BCP 225

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Collect for Rogation Days

O God, from whom all good proceeds: You established your covenant with all creation. Guide us and all your people, that we may walk upon the earth in righteousness and peace, and honor you in our kinship with all your creatures; through our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

The Lessons

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98 *read responsively by half-verse*

BCP 727

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

A reading from the First Letter of John

I John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are comfortable and remain standing through the gospel reading.
Children may follow the petite cross out to Children's Chapel, to return at the Peace.*

Hymn 492 Sing ye faithful, sing with gladness

Finnian



1 Sing, ye faith - ful, sing with glad - ness, wake your no - blest,
2 Sing how he came forth from hea - ven, bowed him - self to
3 So, he tast - ed death for mor - tals, he, of hu - man -
4 Now on high, yet ev - er with us, from his Fa - ther's



sweet - est strain, with the prais - es of your Sa - vior
Beth - lehem's cave, stooped to wear the ser - vant's ves - ture,
kind the head, sin - less one, a - mong the sin - ful,
throne the Son rules and guides the world he ran - somed,



let his house res - ound a - gain; him let all your
bore the pain, the cross, the grave, passed with - in the
Prince of life, a - mong the dead; thus he wrought the
till the ap - point - ed work be done, till he see, re -



mu - sic hon - or, and your songs ex - alt his reign.
gates of dark - ness, thence his ban - ished ones to save.
full re - demp - tion, and the cap - tor cap - tive led.
newed and per - fect, all things gath - ered in - to one.

Words: John Ellerton (1826-1893), alt. Music: *Finnian*, Christopher Dearnley (b. 1930). By permission of Oxford University Press.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Stephen Echols, US Army Chaplain

The Nicene Creed *unison, standing as you are comfortable*

BCP 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

**by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People *Form VI Please sit or kneel for the prayers*

BCP 392

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For victims of hunger, fear, war, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Rob, our bishop, Victor, our companion bishop, Grace, Roxane, and Darius, our priests, our vestry and church staff, for all bishops, clergy, and lay ministers; for all who are leading the process of *Making Room for All*;

For all who serve God in the Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray for St. Thomas parishioners Faye, Jan & family, Steve, Alex, Sid, John, the Boyd family, the Decker family, the family and friends of Murray Craig, John, Bob, Neal, Laurie, Gene, Ellen, Steve, Cindy, Bernie, Josh, Rick, and Raymond; for our homebound members Ramón, Carol, Bill, Jan, and William; for friends of the parish Mary, Michael, Precious, Mary Louise & family, Steven & Buffy, Emma Duke, the family and friends of Molly Lane, the family and friends of Samantha Broom, John, Donna, Chris, John, Linda, the family and friends of Lexy McRae, Sam, and Jim; for those who care for them, and for others we name at this time . . . *Silence*. Hear us, Lord; **for your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. Give thanks for the birthdays of Florence, Sophia, Taylor, Lucy, Sonny, and Nick; for the anniversaries of Royce & Tamara, Amy & Richard, Mayjane & Bruce, Chuck & Sunny, and Kevin & Donna; and other blessings we name at this time. *Silence*. We will exalt you, O God our King; **and praise your name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, especially Norma, Rolene, Mike, Marianne, Mitchi, Sam, Bill, Dixie, Bob, Judy, Murray, and Judy. *Silence*. Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; **who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence*.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

The Peace *standing or seated as you are comfortable, we share signs of Christ's peace with one another*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

St. Thomas welcomes your gifts.

You may mail a check to 2100 Hilton Avenue, Columbus, GA 31906,
donate online at our website (<https://www.stthomascolumbus.org/give/>),
or use your mobile device by texting **STTCOLUMBUS** to **73256**

Offertory

Anthem This little light of mine Arr. Ronald Turner (b. 1946)
Katie Buckley, *Guest Conductor*, Shara Bryan Torsiello, *Soprano*

This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine
Hide it under a bushel - NO!
I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel - NO!
I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
My light reflects the love of Jesus,
His love, his life so freely given;
A gift of love and light for my salvation,
Light of the world, now shine through me.
Wherever I may go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Wherever I may go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer B Please stand as you are comfortable* BCP 367

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus S-128

setting by William Mathias

Ho - ly, ho - ly,

ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Remain as you are, or kneel

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer *spoken in unison*

BCP 364

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Fraction Anthem S-165

setting by William Mathias



Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All Christians are joyfully invited to share in communion. You do not have to be a member of St. Thomas or an Episcopalian in order to receive. Come forward down the center aisle when invited by the ushers. Go to the farthest end of the altar rail and stand or kneel. Hold out one hand to receive the bread and then dip the bread in the cup or drink from the cup. If you prefer not to share a common cup, hold out two hands to receive the bread and wine together. If you prefer not to receive either the bread or the cup, cross your arms across your chest. If you need a gluten-free wafer, let the server know. If you prefer to receive communion at your pew, let the usher know.

Music during Communion

Please sit or kneel after receiving communion and during the postcommunion prayer.

Piano *Turnabout*

Robert D. Vandall , Dan Forrest
Tommy Meeks, *Piano*

Hymn 455 O Love of God, how strong and true

Dunedin

1. O Love of God, how strong and true,
eternal and yet ever new;
uncomprehended and unbought,
beyond all knowledge and all thought.
2. O wide embracing, wondrous Love,
we read thee in the sky above;
we read thee in the earth below
in seas that swell and streams that flow.
3. We read thee best in him who came
to bear for us the cross of shame,
sent by the Father from on high,
our life to live, our death to die.
4. We read thy power to bless and save
e'en in the darkness of the grave;
still more in resurrection light
we read the fullness of thy might.

1 Lord, make us ser - vants of your peace: where there is
 2 Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is
 3 Je - sus, our Lord, may we not seek to be con -
 4 May we not look for love's re - turn, but seek to
 5 Dy - ing, we live, and are re - born through death's dark

1 hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we for -
 2 gloom, may we sow hope; where all is night, may we sow
 3 soled, but to con - sole, nor look to un - der - stand - ing
 4 love un - self - ish - ly, for in our giv - ing we re -
 5 night to end - less day: Lord, make us ser - vants of your

1 give; where there is strife, may we make one.
 2 light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.
 3 hearts, but look for hearts to un - der - stand.
 4 ceive, and in for - giv - ing are for - given.
 5 peace, to wake at last in hea - ven's light.

Words: James Quinn (b. 1919), based on a prayer att. to St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226). Copyright © James Quinn, SJ, printed by permission of Geoffrey Chapman, a division on Cassell Ltd. Music: Dickinson College, Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr. (1923-1979). Copyright © 1962, Theodore Presser Co. used by permission of the publisher.

Postcommunion Prayer *unison*

BCP 366

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn 344 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing

Sicilian Mariners

1 Lord, dis - miss us with thy bless - ing; fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and a - dor - a - tion for thy Gos - pel's
3 so that when thy love shall call us, Sa - vior, from the

joy and peace; let us each, thy love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound: may the fruits of thy sal - va - tion
world a - way, fear of death shall not ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: O re - fresh us,
in our hearts and lives a - bound: ev - er faith - ful,
glad thy sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful to thy truth may we be found;
may we ev - er reign with thee in end - less day.

Words: Att. to John Fawcett (1739/40-1817). Music: *Sicilian Mariners*, Sicilian melody; first published *The European Magazine and London Review*, 1792, alt.

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

We welcome to worship today the Rev. Stephen Echols, US Army Chaplain (MAJ) is an Active-Duty Army Chaplain and Episcopal Priest currently serving as the Ethics Instructor and Writer at the Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Moore, GA. He is accompanied by his amazing spouse, Emily Echols, and his two boys, Gabriel (12) and Thomas (8), and their super mutt dog, Nick.

Music Notes

Thank you, Tommy Meeks, for playing the piano at communion. Tommy is a student at Rainey-McCullers School of the Arts and member of Voices of the Valley. Katie Buckley is the music teacher at Blanchard Elementary and steps out of the choir to conduct the offertory anthem which was arranged by Ronald Turner, former professor of church music at Southern Seminary, and who has been attending St Thomas! Shara Bryan-Torsiello is the soloist. Shara works at Aflac and comes from a wonderful musical family. Her sister Shana is in the choir and their brother Robbie has sung with us and their father, Jerry, sang all the big tenor roles.

In our prayers

St. Thomas parishioners: Faye Melton, Jan & family, Steve Melton, Alex Gafford, Sid Regan, John Studstill, Jennifer Boyd and family, the Decker family, the family & friends of Murray Craig, John Partin, Bob Chitwood, Neal Fenter, Laurie Mahon, Gene Wells, Ellen Free, Steve Scott, Cindy Godwin, Bernie Sutter, Josh Becker, Rick McKnight, Raymond Campbell

Homebound members: Ramón Capo, Carol Kennon, Bill Pauli, Jan Pittman, William South

Friends of the parish: Mary (*Roxane Gwyn*), Michael Langan (*Cindy Godwin*), Precious (*Patty Slembarski*), Mary Louise Grable & family (*Patty Slembarski*), Steven & Buffy Swinehart (*Travis Wade*), Emma Duke Bleke (*Ann Burr*), the family & friends of Molly Lane (*Cindy Godwin*), the family & friends of Samantha Broom (*Katie Buckley*), John Guy (*Ena Hunt*), Donna Becker (*Ashley Becker*), Chris Matthews (*Bonnie Ellis*), John Denny (*Ena Hunt*), Linda (*Florence Wakoko-Studstill*), the family & friends of Lexy McRae (*Riley Connery, Taylor St. John*), Sam Delgado (*Kym Futch*), Jim Holder (*Jenny Holder*)

Those with continuing concerns: Frank & Pam Feagle, Carlene Pawlowicz, Ralph Wimberly, Henry Morrill, Jessica McComb, Esther Thomas, Joe Mills, April Jacobs, Jana Speer, Amy Nurnberg, Debbie & Max Anderson, Art France, Angela Tulloh (*Louise Tulloh*)

Soldiers and families at Ft. Moore and St. Thomas members and friends who are deployed: Krk Malit

Those celebrating birthdays: Florence Wakoko-Studstill 5/5, Sophia Wise 5/6, Taylor St. John 5/6, Lucy Gray 5/7, Sonny Taunton 5/11, Nick Capo 5/11

Those celebrating anniversaries: Royce & Tamara Ard 5/5, Amy & Richard Nurnberg 5/6, Maryjane & Bruce Wrenn 5/7, Chuck & Sunny Gantner 5/9, Kevin & Donna Kelly 5/10

Those who have died: Norma Jergens 7/27/23, Rolene Stewart 8/6/23, Mike Nichols 8/31/23, Marianne Baxter 9/9/23, Mitchi Wade 11/3/23, Sam Harmon 11/25/23, Bill Thomas 11/25/23, Dixie Harmon 12/23/23, Bob Wadkins 1/11/24, Judy Harding 1/22/24, Murray Craig 4/4/24, Judy Gunter 4/6/24

Announcements

For more information about the ministries of St. Thomas, pick up our latest *Seasons* newsletter or visit our website at www.StThomasColumbus.org.

Sundays

Coffee Time: 8:45-10:15. Homemade and packaged snacks are available in the parish hall.

Formation:

Shine Time: 9:30-10:15 in the Outreach Center. Children ages Pre-K – 3rd grade

Tween Time: 9:30-10:15 in the Youth Room. Children ages 4th grade-middle school

Adults: 9:30-10:15

In Search of Justice - May 5 & 12 in the library. Themes of justice, righteousness, and fairness abound throughout the scriptures. This study will explore the Justice of God revealed in the scriptures and what it means to live out God's justice in a world filled with so much injustice. Jerry Brown will facilitate these discussions.

Welcome Class - April 21 to May 12, in the Parlor.

Worship:

Children's Chapel: Children follow the petite cross to the Chapel before the Gospel reading and return for Holy Eucharist at the Peace.

Children's lectionary bulletins can be found in the busy bags located under the wooden table at the rear of All Saints' Hall.

Contemplative Healing Service: Tonight at 5pm in the Chapel. Silence, gentle chanting, scripture, candlelight, meditation, healing prayers with anointing, and the Holy Eucharist. Bring your most vulnerable self and be met with the gift of silence and healing.

Wednesdays

Wednesdays Eucharist: 5:30 to 6 in the Chapel. This brief Eucharist focuses on a saint being celebrated that day or week, using an updated version of the Eucharistic prayer with more expansive language for God and people.

Wednesday programming schedule: *(Nursery available from 5:30-7:30; longer if needed by choir members.)*

5:30 Eucharist in the Chapel

5:30-6:15 Dinner served in the parish hall

6:20 Prayers around tables

6:30-7:30 Formation time for children, youth, and adults

6:45-8:30 St. Thomas Choir rehearsal in the Chapel

Wednesday Dinner: An entrée with two sides and a simple dessert. (Vegetarian and gluten free options available by request). Suggested cost: \$7.50 per adult, \$5 per child under 12, and \$25 per family, however, we invite you to pay what you can - more or less as you are able. Reservations needed each week by midnight on Monday. Menus are posted on the website, and you can register and pay online for up to a month at a time. Reservation cards are also available in the pews. **Menu – May 8th:** Mexican chicken casserole, yellow rice, and black beans

News for this week

Welcome Classes: First Steps with St. Thomas - Sundays at 9:30, April 14 to May 12. These classes are for all guests and new members who would like to learn more about St. Thomas and for long-time members who would like a refresher.

Guiding Lights: Conversations about care for children past and present; Wednesday evenings April 10 to May 15, 6:30 to 7:30 in the Library. Join us for conversation about guiding young people. Each night we pick a theme and share experiences, wisdom, and questions around that theme. Parents of young children, parents of adult children, grandparents, teachers, neighbors - all are invited. All who love and care for children and teens have something to share.

Baby Shower and Blessing for Hannah & Brian Walker: This morning in the parish hall following the 10:30 service. Hannah & Brian's baby GIRLS are due soon and we can't wait to meet them and welcome them to St. Thomas. We will have note cards available for all to write blessings for these new parents. Gifts are not required but they are registered at Target and Amazon. Everyone is welcome for this time of celebration.

Women's Lectionary Bible Study: Thursday, May 9th from 10-11am in the St. Thomas Library and on Zoom. This week is the last week for this season. Study the lectionary readings for the following Sunday in this one-hour class taught by the Rev. Cindy Cox Garrard. All women are welcome; you don't have to be a member of St. Thomas or even of any church at all. A study sheet is sent to each participant a few days before class. Contact the church office to register.

May Excursion: Voices of the Valley Concert - Saturday May 11 at 7:00 pm at RiverCenter. The Voices of the Valley Children's Chorus presents "A Servant's Heart," featuring many voices from St. Thomas. See Monday's newsletter for more information, and let Roxane know if you'll be attending so we can all sit together.

Graduation Sunday: Join us May 12th for a blessing and celebration of all the high school, college, and graduate school graduates.

Upcoming & Ongoing

Lunch Bunch: Tuesday, May 14, 11:30am at Parker's Pantry. All women are invited to gather for lunch on the second Tuesday of each month. We will meet at Parker's Pantry at 11:30. After each person orders in the line, we will gather in the private dining room. At noon, there will be a brief prayer and devotion. This is a new gathering in addition to the Women's Group. Hope to see you there!

The Ten Commandments: An Interfaith Conversation with Rabbi Beth Schwartz and friends; remaining Wednesdays- May 8, 15, 22; 6:30 to 7:30 at St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church (4026 Macon Rd). Join Rabbi Beth Schwartz, the Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards, and friends in Luther Hall at St. Matthew Lutheran Church for dialogue with the Ten Commandments. The course will explore the Ten Commandments through the lenses of Judaism and Lutheran, Episcopal, and Presbyterian liturgical and catechetical traditions of interpreting and applying them. This is a continuation of a discussion that began at St. Matthew before Lent. **May 8:** "You Shall Not Commit Murder"

Welcome New Staff Member: May 15, 5:30 to 6:15 in Outreach. Join us on May 15 for a welcome party for Shayla Holloway who is joining our staff as Director of Children and Family Ministries. Chili dogs and all the fixin's will be served in Outreach from 5:30 to 6:15. Games, snow cone truck, and more will be outside in the newly revamped fire pit courtyard. The playground will also be open for children and families to play. This will be our last Wednesday night for the school year. Join us to welcome Shayla and welcome summer!

May YACT Social - Rafting! Saturday, May 18, 11:00 AM. Join Young Adults from St. Thomas for a rafting trip. Contact Taylor for more info! If rafting isn't for you consider joining the group for lunch at Banks Food Hall at 1:30.

The Day of Pentecost: Sunday, May 19. Wear red and gather to celebrate the birth of the Church and the work of the Spirit. 8:30 am Eucharist in the Chapel as usual, 9:30am Pentecost crafts and activities for all ages, 10:30 am Eucharist in the Parish Hall. We would like to include a multitude of languages in worship that morning. If you speak a language other than English and would be willing to read a lesson or offer prayers, please let Rev. Grace know by today.

Church Camp Out! May 25, 5 pm to Sunday morning! Join us Memorial Day Weekend for a Church Camp Out. Bring campers or tents and camp in the church's backyard! For those who prefer the comfort of your own bed, bring games or other campfire fun and come to eat and fellowship as long as you like. We'll enjoy a renovated fire pit area and fun together as the summer kicks off. Stay tuned for more information coming soon!

Vacation Bible School: July 22 – 26. All children (rising preK-5th grade) are invited to participate in ReNew: The Green VBS. ReNew is about hope, opportunity, and service. Kids will have the chance to grow in faith as they play, learn, and sing all while serving their community and demonstrate that being green can be easy, faithful, and fun. Registration coming soon! Volunteers are needed to offer the best VBS to the children of our community! Youth (rising 6th-12th grade) are encouraged to volunteer as shepherds. Adults are needed to lead classes, help with food preparation, and manage drop off/pick up. If you are interested in volunteering, please email taylor@stthomascolumnbus.org.

Camp Mikell Summer Camp for Children & Youth: Camp Mikell is the Camp and Conference Center of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. Camp Mikell offers week-long summer camps for rising 3rd graders through recent high school graduates. Please visit campmikell.com/summer-camp/ for more information. In addition to scholarships and payment plans offered by Camp Mikell, St. Thomas is able to offer a scholarship for up to 1/3 of the camp cost to children and teens who are members of St. Thomas and who participate in St. Thomas children and youth programming at least once a month. Contact Taylor Mack for more information on scholarships. Some teens may be interested in earning extra money to cover the remaining costs of camp. If you would like to hire a youth to help with yard work, spring cleaning, babysitting, or other tasks please contact Taylor Mack to be connected.

Evening Prayer: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 - 5:45 or so on Zoom. We gather on Tuesdays and Thursdays online at 5:30 for a brief time of prayer in the evening. The link is available on our LinkTree.

Prayer Group: The St. Thomas Prayer Group meets weekly to offer all kinds of prayers, including Prayers of the People shared on Sunday mornings. We also pray for those who have asked for prayers but wish them to be private. This list is confidential to the Prayer Group. Contact the church office to request prayers or to find out about being a part of the Prayer Group. The group meets in person in the Chapel at St. Thomas the first Monday of each month and online on other Mondays.

QR Code for signups! Use the QR code to find a list of current signups at St. Thomas including Wednesday night dinners! New to QR codes? Open the camera on your smartphone (or a QR reader), point at the black and white code box, when prompted push the link that shows up on your screen.



St. Thomas Staff

Administrative Assistant: Lupe Ortiz-Sanchez; Director of Music & Organist: Rick McKnight; Director of Parish Administration: Patty Slembariski; Director of Parish & Community Engagement: Meg Olive-Allison; Director of Youth & Young Adults: Taylor Mack; Interim Director of Children's Ministries: Maddie Redden; Kitchen Manager & Sexton: Seth Burgamy; Livestream technician: Nick Williams; Maintenance & cleaning: Frances Woolfolk; Nursery: Riley Mullen, Evie Smith, Dorothy Uwanawich, Jenneken Varnum; Sexton assistant: Morgan Camp

St. Thomas Clergy

Associate Rector for Mission: Darius Sudayi; Associate Rector for Pastoral Care: Roxane Gwyn; Rector: Grace Burton-Edwards